

WO-345
Charles Ludlam House
Ocean City
Private

c. 1903

Better known to older residents of Ocean City as the Robert Showell house, this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling on Baltimore Avenue was erected shortly after 1902 when Charles Ludlam bought from Joshua J. Dunton and his, Mary, Lot 53 for \$300. It is estimated that the house was erected shortly afterwards. During the early 1920s the house and lot were sold to John D. Letcher, then living in Norfolk, Virginia, for \$4000. In 1926 John D. Letcher, who had relocated his principal residence to Lexington, Virginia, transferred the Baltimore Avenue house to Margaret Letcher Showell and her children. The house remained under Showell family ownership until 1936.

Now housing the Regal Restaurant, the Queen Anne style house is one of the more prominent early twentieth century dwellings still standing in the "Old Town" Ocean City. Rising on the southeast corner is a distinctive three-story octagonal tower.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: CHARLES LUDLAM HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: NU-345

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

(1870-1930)

Standalone Structure

SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING
WITH COMMERCIAL SPACE

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. W0-345

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CHARLES LUDLAM HOUSE

and/or common Regal Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 100 South Baltimore Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Ocean City __ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Benjamin McAllister, Jr.

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Hurlock state and zip code MD 21643

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 166

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 61

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date __ federal __ state __ county __ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-345

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Charles Ludlam house stands at 100 South Baltimore Street in the center of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house, now known as the Regal Restaurant, faces east with the main gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built c. 1902, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house is supported on a high concrete block foundation, and the dwelling is sheathed with a uniform layer of aluminum siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a center entrance sheltered by a wraparound tapered post porch. The partially glazed front door is flanked by two-light sidelights and topped by a three-light transom. Two-over-two sash windows flank the entrance, and rising on the southeast corner of the building is a three-story tower topped by a short octagonal roof. Each face on each floor is pierced by a single-pane sash window. The opposite, northeast corner is marked by a slightly projecting gabled pavilion. The ground floor currently houses the restaurant.

Two-over-two sash windows light the restaurant building from the north and south. An exterior brick chimney rises against the south gable end. Attached to the back of the restaurant is a large two-story rear wing.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-345

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Charles Ludlam house, now housing the Regal Restaurant, dates from the early years of the twentieth century. One of the more prominent Queen Anne style dwellings still standing in the old part of Ocean City, the restaurant building rests on a high concrete block foundation. Rising on the southeast corner is a distinctive three-story, octagonal tower. The building is one of a handful of Victorian dwellings that retains its basic integrity.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Better known as the Robert Showell house, this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling on Baltimore Avenue was erected shortly after 1902 when Charles Ludlam bought Lot 53 from Joshua J. Dunton and his wife, Mary, for \$300. (FHP 16/370) It is estimated that the house was erected shortly afterwards. During the early 1920s the house and lot were sold to John D. Letcher for \$4000. (ODC 41/389) In 1926 John D. Letcher transferred the Baltimore Avenue house to Margaret Letcher Showell and her children. The house remained under Showell family ownership until 1936. (BB 24/516)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-345

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart Architectural Historian

organization Worcester County

date 2/15/90

street & number Worcester County Courthouse

telephone 632-1194

city or town Snow Hill

state MD 21863

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-345
Charles Ludlam House
100 South Baltimore Street
Ocean City, Maryland
Chain of title

FWH 166/61

Lottie H. Jarmon, widow

to

3/27/1963

Benjamin McAllister, Jr. and
Mary C. McAllister of Hurlock,
Dorchester County, Maryland

BB 24/516

Mary L. Showell, widow of
Robert J. Showell of Lexington, Va.

to

1/28/1936

Winfield S. Wallace
Evelyn E. Wallace
undivided one-half interest in Lot
No. 53 on the Old Town plat

-other half interest to Walter A. Jarman
and Lottie H. Jarman, ... and being
all the same property in which the
undivided one-half interest of said
Winfield S. Wallace was conveyed to
said Walter A. Jarman by deed dated
3/18/1939 and recorded B.B. 37/579,
The said Walter A. Jarman died on or
about May 9/ 1962.

SMC 56/363

John D. Letcher, widower of Lexington
Virginia

to

2/1/1926

Margaret L. Showell and her children
John Letcher Showell, Robert J.
Showell, Jr., et al.

Lot No. 53

WO-345
Charles Ludlam House
Chain of title continued

Page 2

ODC 41/389

Lloyd E. Jester
Irma W. Jester of Ocean City, MD

to

9/1/1921

John D. Letcher of Norfolk, Va.
\$4000.00 all that part of Lot 53
together with improvements

ODC 39/213

Charles Ludlam, widower

to

10/19/1920

Lloyd E. Jester of Worcester Co.
\$4000.00 together with the improvements
thereon

FHP 16/370

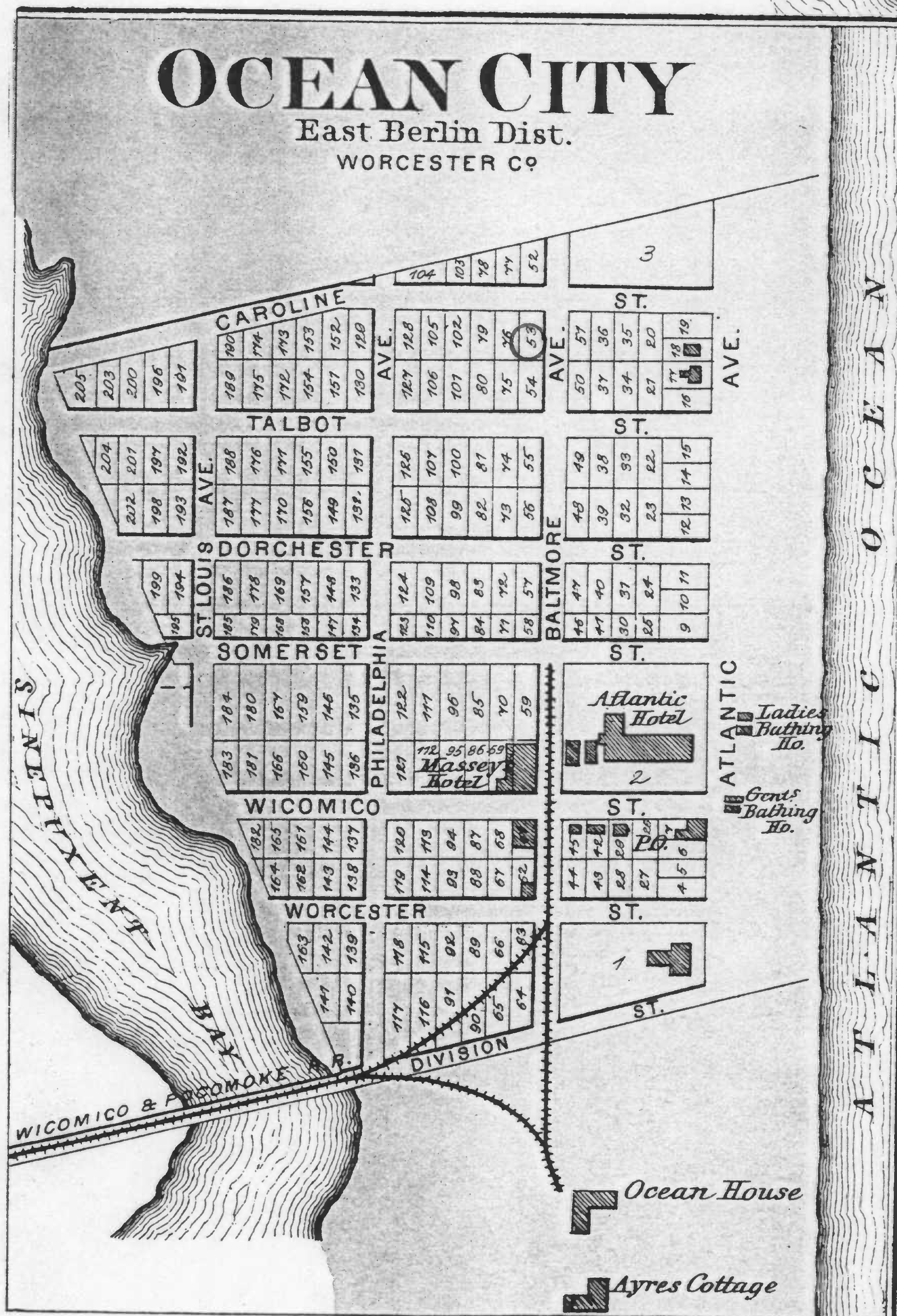
Joshua J. Dunton
Mary Dunton

to

2/19/1902

Charles Ludlam
\$300 al that lot and parcel of land
known as Lot 53

1877 LAKE,
GRIFING, AND
STEVENSON ATLAS
W0-345

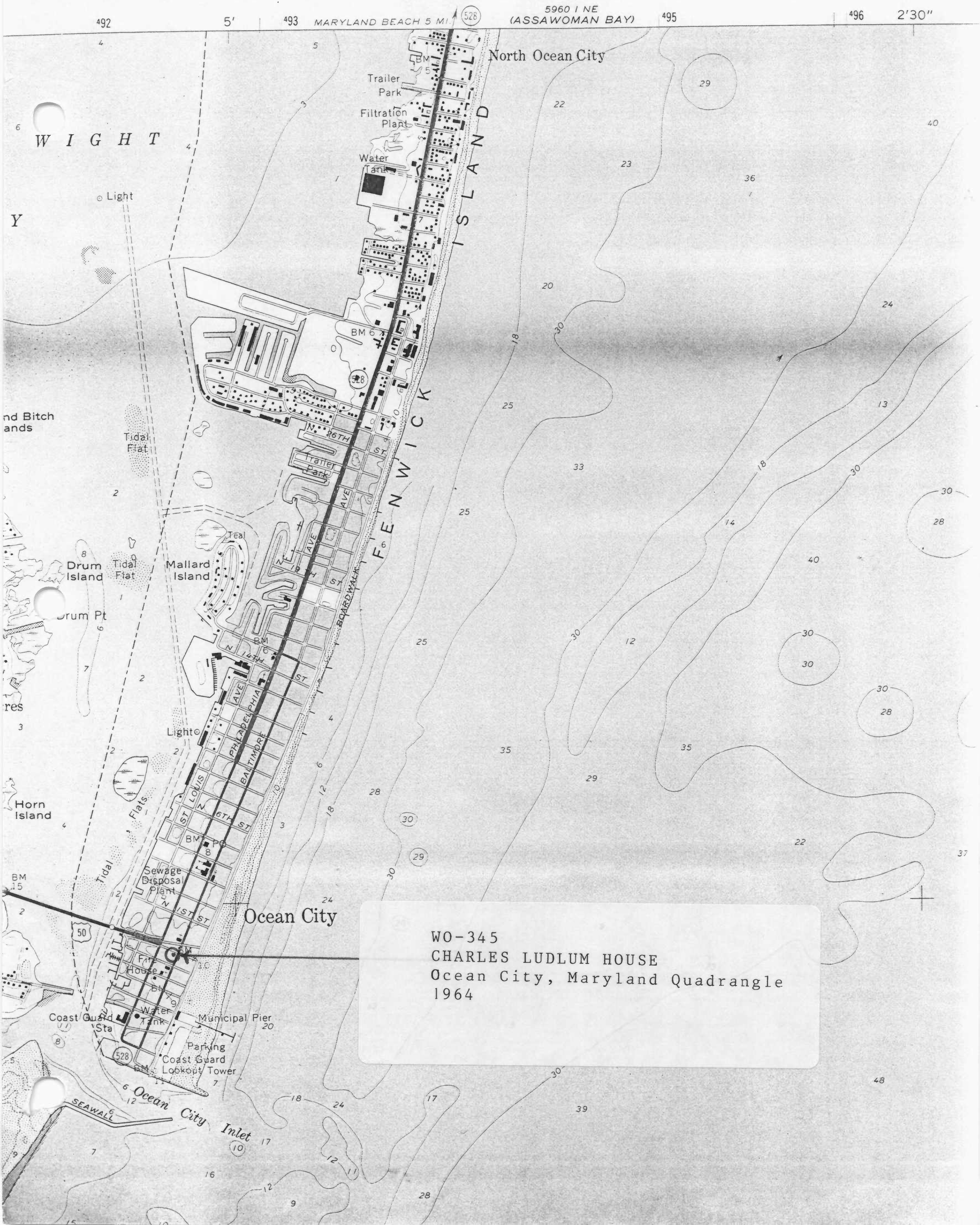


OCEAN CITY BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- J. TRACY**, Proprietor of Atlantic Hotel, Ocean City; also, of Peninsula House, Salisbury.
SAM'L. J. MASSEY, Proprietor of Seaside House, Ocean City, Md. Terms, two dollars per day; ten dollars per week; meals fifty cents each. Liberal arrangements made with families. First-class Bar, Bowling Alley and Livery Stable attached.
COFFIN & LYNCH, Proprietors of the Ocean House, Ocean City.

WHALEYVILLE BUSINESS REFERENCES.

- JOHN P. R. GILLISS**, Physician and Surgeon.
P. W. DALE & BRO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Boots, Shoes, &c., &c.
P. WHALEY, Merchant and R. R. Agent.
E. T. WHALEY & CO., Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, and Notions.
JAMES WHALEY, Judge of the Orphans' Court.
LEANDER CLIFTON, Blacksmith. All work in his line done to order.
J. E. WHITAKER, Proprietor of Whaleyville Steam Saw Mills. Grinding, Sawing and Carding. All work done in good order.



WO-345
CHARLES LUDLUM HOUSE
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle
1964